

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 05260

SECDEF FOR OUSDRE/PP

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OCON, NATO, MILI
SUBJECT: PERIODIC ARMAMENTS PLANNING SYSTEM (PAPS)

SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE REPORTS FRG CONCERNS ON
DIRECTION PAPS STUDY GROUP SEEMS TO BE HEADED.
GERMANS BELIEVE THEY ARE OUT FRONT ALONE IN PUSH
FOR A COMPEREHENSIVE ARMAMENTS PLANNING SYSTEM.
END SUMMARY.

1. DURING RECENT DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
IN BRUSSELS, FRG DEFENSE ADVISOR VON SANDRART HELD
A SIDE DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR KOMER ON THE PAPS
STUDY GROUP. VON SANDRART SAID THE FRG IS CONFUSED
ON THE DIRECTION U.S. WANTS THE PAPS TO GO. THEY
BELIEVE FRG IS OUT FRONT ADVOCATING A COMPREHENSIVE
SYSTEM WITH SOME CLOUT AND THE U.S. IS FALLING OFF
CLOSER TO THE UK POSITION AS ANNOUNCED IN APRIL 78
CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL ARMAMENTS DIRECTORS
(STRESSING ONLY STAGES 0 AND 1). THEY BASE THESE
OPINIONS ON DISCUSSIONS HELD BY FOUR POWER NADS IN
PLYMOUTH AND PAPS MEETING OF FOUR POWERS IN BONN
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ON 16 MAY.

2. U.S. NADREP FOLLOWED UP WITH FRG DEPUTY NADREP
WIELAND WHO HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN PAPS AND ATTENDED
BONN MEETING. WIELAND SAID COL SCHMIDT-PETRI OF
FRG JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF EXPRESSED CONCERN TO
ARMAMENTS DIRECTOR EBERHARD AFTER EBERHARD HAD

ATTENDED FOUR POWER MEETING IN PLYMOUTH AND AGREED TO STATEMENT OF CONSTRAINTS ON PAPS STUDY GROUP. EBERHARD BELIEVED THAT FOUR POWER NADS HAD LIMITED PAPS MORE THAN MINISTERS HAD INTENDED WHEN PAPS GROUP WAS ESTABLISHED. WIELAND EMPHASIZED THAT GERMANS WANT A SYSTEM WHICH WILL NOT ONLY IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION BUT WILL ALSO ESCALATE ISSUES TO CNAD AND MINISTERS WHEN NATIONS FAIL TO COOPERATE. COMMENT: THIS POSITION IS MUCH TOO STRONG FOR UK WHICH PREFERS MORE OF AN INFORMATION SYSTEM WITH NO TEETH END COMMENT.

3. WE BELIEVE WE NEED A SYSTEM IN NATO SIMILAR TO US DSARC, WHERE PERIODIC REVIEWS ARE BUILT IN TO ACQUISITION PROCESS OF NATO PROGRAMS. SYSTEM SHOULD BE VOLUNTARY TO PRESERVE SOVEREIGNTY OF INDIVIDUAL NATIONS WHILE AT LEAST SURFACING TO MINISTERS PROGRAMS WHICH DO NOT CONTRIBUTE TO STANDARDIZATION/INTEROPERABILITY. EVEN SUCH A VOLUNTARY SYSTEM MAY NOT BE ACCEPTABLE TO UK. WE BELIEVE US DEFAD SHOULD MEET WITH FRG DEFAD TO CLARIFY OUR POSITION.

4. ACTION REQUESTED. WASHINGTON GUIDANCE BY OOB BRUSSELS 26 MAY. GLITMAN
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